



Save the Children®

Desarrollo Juvenil Comunitario

Agreement No. 519-A-00-00-00105

FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

“EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: A

WINDOW TO SUCCESS IN LIFE “

From November 2000 to March 2001

PRESENTATION

This document summarizes the results obtained during the period from November 2000 to February 2001 through the project implementation "Early Education: A window to success in life", developed through the alliance between Save the Children U.S. and ASAPROSAR, with USAID funds.

The project began with specific operative planning in conjunction with the implementing institutions of the project. Original plans were suspended due to the disasters that occurred in the first months of 2001, which revealed the high level of vulnerability and basic necessities of rural communities.

Preliminary reports from ISPM¹, express that more than 75 Child Development Centers have been destroyed by the recent earthquakes and with it, more than 3,000 children under 7 years old have gone without educational opportunities or stimulation for their development through systematic programs.

Progress toward meeting project goals involving 17 Child Development Centers has been unusually slow impeded because six of the 17 Centers were totally destroyed and all had severe infrastructure damage. Materials were lost and the psychological crisis, among volunteer staff, children and parents is serious. Due to this, SCF and ASAPROSAR propose the re-direction of project goals toward providing attention to children's needs within reconstruction frameworks, without changing the project's general objectives.

¹ ISPM: Instituto Salvadoreño de Protección al Menor.

I. COMPARING NOTES OF CURRENT ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH THE INDICATOR/ESTABLISHED GOAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	REAL RESULT
Rp1: Educational materials Developed and approved. 1.1 Collection and Analysis of information related to better practices in early education and development of children.	Data collection on better practices of Early Education, carried out through positive average deviance methodologies. Number of significant actors included in the data recollection.	This indicator is in progress.

II. LIMITATIONS RELATED TO ACHIEVEMENT OF INDICATORS

The two earthquakes that occurred on January 13 and February 13, 2001, seriously affected the communities where the project is being carried on, including the total destruction of 6 Child Development Centers (3 ASAPROSAR and 3 SCF); the quakes also caused severe damages in general community structures and psychological crisis for approximately 3,400 families in 17 communities.

SC and ASAPROSAR have considered that within the established population goal under this project, at least 400 girls and boys from 0 to 7 years old, an average of 700 parents and 36 volunteer mothers and child promoters of the communities are among the affected people.

It is necessary to mention that the effects caused by the earthquakes forced the relocation of the ECD Center in San Sebastián District of Chalchuapa to the Galeano District in the department of Santa Ana.

Taking into consideration the current conditions of the affected communities, SC and ASAPROSAR proposed redirecting the majority of the activities to refocus the educational, development and psychological needs for the children, the volunteers who take care of them and their families in the framework of the emergency and reconstruction.

III. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Fundamentally the actions of this project phase were concentrated in the establishment of its functional structure and the start up of orientation related to positive deviance. Initial actions were carried out between the technical staff (4 people) from SC and ASAPROSAR, who, through a workshop, discussed the methodology and defined a strategy, which would be implemented at the volunteer level in charge of the ECD Centers for both institutions. The replication to this activity reached 10 child promoters from ASAPROSAR.

IV. RESULTS OF THE TRAININGS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES

ACTIVITY	TYPE OF POPULATION	#OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES	#OF INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES
Project presentations to institution members under EDIFAM project.	Professional members of institutions and NGO's who participate in the EDIFAM project.	13 people	39 ²
Project presentations to the SCF technical and field staff.	- Institution technical staff - Field staff - Administrative staff	15 people	29 ³
Project presentation to the ASAPROSAR technical and field staff.	- Institution technical personnel - Administrative personnel - Child promoters	20 people	
Analysis sessions on positive deviance methodology.	- ASAPROSAR technicians - SCF technicians	4 people	10 ⁴
Orientation sessions for the ethnographic development study in ASAPROSAR	- ECD promoters	14 people	
Orientation sessions to familiarize with the elaboration of ethnographic studies in the ASAPROSAR centers.	- ECD promoters	14 people	14 ⁵
SUB-TOTAL	- Institutions staff members of EDIFAM project.	13	39
	- Technical staff of executer institutions.	35	29
	- Child promoters.	14	14
TOTAL		62 People	82 People

² It has been considered that each participant will replicate the EDIFAM information with a total of 3 technicians.

³ It is considered that 26 mother caregivers and three sponsorship volunteers in seven communities will be informed through the participating staff.

⁴ 10 ECD Promoters from ASAPROSAR.

⁵ At least a key actor from 3 communities was interviewed by each of 14 ECD Promoters.

Additionally, during the first phase of the project, other necessary activities were carried out, such as:

- Participation in EDIFAM meeting for NGO's presentation.
- Development and implementation of a staff selection process.
- Translation and reproduction of the resource material for the implementation of a study using positive deviance.
- Identification of community volunteers for information compilation, baseline and focus groups.
- Contacts with other institutions staff (Health Promoters)
- Development and approval of amended project.

V. PERSONNEL ISSUES

FOR COORDINATION:

SC and ASAPROSAR have developed a systematic selection process to contract a professional with a profile according to the project requirements. Currently, SC is down to a final selection of candidates. The result will be shared with USAID.

FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

We have assigned two on-site technicians (one in SC and other in ASAPROSAR), as the personnel responsible of implementing the project in the selected communities and to facilitate technical assistance to each institution. A staff description follows.

ANNEX

TECHNICAL LIAISON PROFILE FOR THE PROJECT "EARLY EDUCATION: A WINDOW TO SUCCESS IN LIFE"

ASAPROSAR: Heidy Aída Retana López

Ms. Retana López has a Bachelor's Degree in Education, with experience as a pre-school teacher as well as experience working with high school age children in different educational centers in Santa Ana. She has experience in adult literary as an instructor with different community groups. Ms. Retana López also has had experience as a popular educator through private institutions.

Also, Ms. Retana López has additional training in the use of the reflect method received in popular education, gender balanced education, non-sexist education and environmental studies.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION: Alma Elizabeth Flores

Ms. Flores is a teacher that has more than 10 years of experience in pre-school education, and is approaching finalization of a University program studies in Education. She has experience in basic and secondary education in different institutions.

She has been a rural educator and promoter for more than 3 years, developing educational programs with community groups in the rural area, especially with children using a focus of violence prevention, gender equity and inclusion. She has been a trainer of technical personnel and pre-school teachers, education on detection, prevention and intervention in cases of children with handicaps from 0 to 7 years old and for the training of caregivers mothers from CBI's on active learning and child development. She is also knowledgeable about SARAR methodology.